

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 5-10 have been added.

The Office Action dated December 14, 2004, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abe. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 requires a torque detecting apparatus. Abe appears to disclose a sensor for detecting rotary movement, but there is no indication in Abe that the Abe apparatus detects torque. Because Abe does not disclose a torque detecting apparatus as required by claim 1, claim 1 is submitted to be allowable over this reference.

Moreover, claim 1 requires a sensor unit for producing an output corresponding to rotational torque applied to the rotary shaft. The Office Action has not identified in the cited reference a sensor unit for producing an output corresponding to rotational torque applied to the rotary shaft as required by claim 1. Abe does not appear to disclose or suggest a sensor unit as required by claim 1. Claim 1 is submitted to further distinguish over Abe for this reason.

Claim 1 further requires that a circuit board and connection part be integrally coated with a synthetic resin. The Office Action indicates that lever 17 of Abe is formed of an insulating

synthetic material. Lever 17 is not a coating and does not contact, much less coat the circuit board and connection part as required by claim 1. Claim 1 is submitted to distinguish over Abe for this reason as well.

Abe does not show or suggest every element required by claim 1, and claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 are therefore submitted to be allowable over Abe.

New claim 5 requires a torque detector comprising a housing, a shaft rotatably supported in the housing, a sensor unit in the housing producing an output indicative of a rotational torque applied to the rotary shaft and a circuit board in the housing electrically connected to the sensor by a connection part between the circuit board and the sensor. The circuit board supplies an output of the sensor unit to an external device. A layer of synthetic resin integrally coats the circuit board and connection part. Abe does not show or suggest a sensor unit in a housing producing an output indicative of a rotational torque applied to a rotary shaft. Abe does not show or suggest a connection part between a circuit board and a sensor electrically connecting a sensor to a circuit board. Abe does not show a layer of synthetic resin coating a circuit board and connection part. Claim 5 and its dependent claims 6-8 are submitted to be allowable over the art of record for at least these reasons.

New claim 9 requires a method of forming a torque detector

that includes a step of providing a housing having a first chamber for receiving a sensor and a shaft, a second chamber for receiving a circuit board and a passageway connecting the first chamber and the second chamber, a step of connecting a circuit board to a sensor with a connection part to form a unit, a step of coating the unit with synthetic resin, and a step of sliding the unit into the housing so that the sensor slides into the first chamber, the circuit board slides into the second chamber and the connection part slides into the passageway. A method comprising these steps is not shown or suggested by the art of record, and claim 9 and its dependent claim 10 are therefore submitted to be allowable over the art of record.

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated December 14, 2005, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-4 and examination and allowance of claims 5-10 is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present

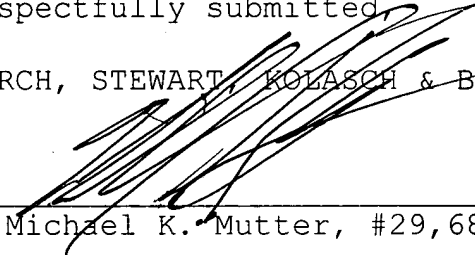
application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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